

UPDATE

UNAPD

A bi-monthly newsletter for Uganda National Action on Physical Disability

ISSUE 4, 2013



Members of UNAPD could not hide their excitement after they won two trophies in the men's and women's categories of the National Sitting Volleyball competitions played at Lugogo, organised by the Uganda Paralympics Committee (see page 12 for details)

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EDITORIAL



George W. Kiyingi
Executive Director

Welcome to yet another edition of UNAPD update as we come near to the end of the year. Embarrassing things have continued to happen as we strive to remove barriers that prevent Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) from enjoying their rights. The most recent bizarre incident is that of the inaccessibility state of the Supreme Court of Uganda. It is a shame that a

lawyer with disability who had gone to the “Temple of Justice” to represent the government had to be lifted because the court is inaccessible.

The argument of the structure being a rentable one does not hold. Renting a structure which is inaccessible is very discriminatory and a clear denial of the right of justice to PWDs. The Supreme Court is supposed to lead by example as far as guaranteeing human rights is concerned. How then will it hear and/ decide cases involving violation of Accessibility rights of PWDs?

This is just a tip of the ice bag. A survey on the State of Accessibility in Kampala city has revealed another shocking but not surprising results – that 95% of the buildings in Kampala are inaccessible. I argue Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) especially the Physical Planning department to stop approving and Commissioning Buildings which are not accessible.

The media has played a good role in highlighting and exposing some of these injustices but we ask for more from them. I believe our struggle on inaccessibility cannot succeed without the support of the media. It's high time the media started publishing accessible and inaccessible structures in Uganda especially in Kampala.

I also argue PWDs in all districts to emulate Kiboga and form District Accessibility Audit Teams, asses public places for accessibility and petition district local governments for improvements. Kiboga's efforts have started to bear great fruits.

I wish to applaud the headmaster of Arua Primary School for demystifying the issue of lack of money to put up accessibility provisions in government schools. The ramp he has put at his school should serve as an example to all the authorities in other government schools. Indeed, there cannot be any better example to justify the old adage of “where there is a will, there will always be a way”.

You will get all the details of these stories and more in this edition.

Shame on you judges

We were alarmed by the story and picture of a Senior State Attorney being carried like a luggage to the Supreme Court room to represent the Government in a number of cases because the building the court occupies is not accessible. Elisha Bafirawala uses clutches and his predicament was published in the September 26 edition of the New Vision. It raises two issues that we want to highlight.

First, it is pitiable that the highest court in the land is occupying an illegal building and the greatest legal minds are operating from such a structure. The Supreme Court judges and the Government that rents the building reportedly at more than shs6b per year, ought to be the supreme custodians of the law but it is unfortunate that they are behaving otherwise.

Article 20 (d) of the Persons with Disabilities Act states: Any person, who constructs a building to which the public is invited, shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access through ramps wherever stairs obstruct the free passage of pedestrians, mainly wheel chair users and people with mobility problems.

Article 9(1) of the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disability to which Uganda is a signatory states: To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, among others.

By the Supreme Court and the Government renting this building, they are not only breaking these legislations but also discriminating some people from accessing a public service.

We also fault the State Attorney for failure to use his office to sensitise the judges (if at all they are ignorant) about accessibility. Indeed, he ought to be a disability activist to fight for the rights of the one billion persons with disability in the world. A disability activist never allows to be carried like luggage and he would therefore refuse to be carried to the court room and demand for a ramp or lift. Even his superior the Attorney General who had delegated him would not blame him because he has genuine reasons and the law is there to protect him.

Everybody should join UNAPD that is leading the advocacy campaign for improved accessibility in the country.

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Kampala's pathetic state of accessibility

Uganda National Action on Physical Disability through Architect Phyllis Kwesiga of K.K Architects, Interior and Landscape Designers carried out a survey and audited (assessed) the ease/difficulty faced by all people especially persons with disability in using selected public buildings, roads and facilities in Kampala.

The survey was aimed at establishing the extent to which property developers and constructors adhere to the local and international policies and legislations requiring the State and all players in the construction industry to construct buildings and facilities that are easily used by every person especially persons with disability. Notable among these legislations are Part IV of the PWDs Act 2006, the National Policy on Disability 2006 and Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (2008) which Uganda signed and ratified without reservation.

However, the survey findings indicate a pathetic state of physical accessibility to buildings and facilities in Kampala by especially persons with movement limitations as they cannot access them with ease. Most buildings do not have facilities such as ramps and lifts while many of the existing accessibility facilities were not designed according to the required standards and as a result, persons with disabilities fail or face difficulties in accessing the buildings.

It is in these buildings where services crucial to human survival are provided and therefore non-accessibility to this infrastructure in a source of denial of rights to services enjoyed by other people. This contributes a lot towards unemployment, injustice, discrimination, low levels of literacy, exclusion, isolation, inadequate involvement in community activities by persons with disability.

Uganda has a disability-friendly legal framework which guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities. However, despite the efforts of the government to establish a conducive environment for participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life, we still face difficulties in terms of accessing the physical infrastructure especially because of limited implementation of these laws.

One of the reasons why it has been difficult to implement the legal provisions on accessibility is the absence of Accessibility Standards. It is as a result of this realisation that UNAPD in collaboration with various stakeholders developed these Accessibility Standards. The purpose of these standards is to guide architects, property developers, policy makers and implementers on the accessibility requirements in the physical environment during the design and implementation of construction projects. I now urge all players in the construction industry to use the Standards while designing,

approving and implementation of construction projects.

Good accessibility is not only for persons with disabilities but also for elderly persons, the sick, pregnant women, and those carrying heavy loads. It is for these reasons that we propose access to the physical environment is considered by all stakeholders and in all sectors. First, the architects have to consider accessibility during the designing of all construction projects while KCCA, Uganda National Roads Authority, all local governments and engineers have to consider it during approval of construction projects, undertaking and supervision of construction works.

We also appeal to the Ministry of Education to capture accessibility in the check list used for school inspection such that inspectors of schools emphasise to the school administration the need to make schools accessible as this will increase the enrolment and retention of children with disabilities in schools.

I thank all those that have endeavoured to make their palaces accessible. My sincere appreciation also goes to Architect Phyllis Kwesigwa who carried out the survey and who was one of the two consultants who helped us to develop the Accessibility Standards.

Please keep supporting UNAPD to remove barriers that prevent people with physical disability from accessing their rights on equal basis with other citizens.

Arthur Blick Senior, CHAIRMAN UNAPD

This is a slightly edited speech made by the Chairman at a dissemination workshop for Kampala Accessibility Survey findings held in Kampala



UNAPD chairman handing over a copy of Accessibility Standards to Ron McCallum, Vice Chairperson UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Bye bye UNAPD



Bob Ocilo who has been a Project Officer Membership Empowerment Project gestures after opening a prize given to him by the staff of UNAPD. He has left the organisation to be involved in personal business. Bob has worked for UNAPD for two years after joining in 2011. He has been in charge of implementing MEP activities in Busia, Pallissa, Kaberamaido and Kitgum. Staff said Bob was a calm, generous, hardworking and self-motivated person who will be greatly missed in the organisation but wished him success as he further develops his career.

"Part of the problem with the word 'disabilities' is that it immediately suggests an inability to see or hear or walk or do other things that many of us take for granted. But what of people who can't feel? Or talk about their feelings? Or manage their feelings in constructive ways? What of people who aren't able to form close and strong relationships? And people who cannot find fulfillment in their lives, or those who have lost hope, who live in disappointment and bitterness and find in life no joy, no love? These, it seems to me, are the real disabilities." **Fred Rogers**

Dining with the journalists

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses." Malcolm X's view of the media is not very different from that of UNAPD and that is why the organisation hosted the media at a luncheon at hotel Africana.

The purpose was to create a rapport with the media envisaged to result into increase coverage of disability issues and concerns which can make those against the rights of persons with disability "guilty" and to change their negative mind towards persons with disability.

In his speech, UNAPD Chairperson Arthur Blick said UNAPD is an advocacy organisation that cannot meet her objectives with working closely with the media: "We have realised beyond reasonable doubt that we can achieve nothing or very little if the media are not our allies. The media have great capacity and efficiency to pass on our advocacy and awareness-raising messages to the public. Without the media we cannot be able to reach Ugandans yet solving the challenges of people with disabilities requires a holistic approach involving every Ugandan."

The luncheon attracted 35 editors and journalists from newspapers, television and radio stations.

At the event, there was not only lots of food and drinks but also the media gave much advice to UNAPD in regard to improving the visibility of the organisation.

"We have had some press conferences before and also invited the media to cover some of our activities but we have never had the chance of meeting the Editors who normally do a great job 'behind the scenes'. I thank all the media houses that have been covering our activities and because of this we have been able to make some achievements as we shall see in one of the short videos we shall watch," Blick said.

The journalists were touched by the two emotional documentaries that UNAPD produced: *The Distant Dream*; and *The Untapped Potential*. The former highlight the challenges children with disability go through to receive education while the later showcases the unique abilities of PWDs in regard to participation in development activities.



One of UNAPD Board Members Mpindi Bumali talking to the media

Kiboga schools embrace accessibility

BY NELSON MWANJE

In Kiboga, we have continued to register great achievements out of our advocacy for improved accessibility in schools that we are delighted to share with you. Recently, we have been making follow-ups on the schools that we audited for accessibility. Using the office of the district engineer, we were able to identify nine schools under construction. We are keeping in touch with these schools such that they take care of accessibility provisions from the construction stage.

These include: Kalungu Primary School (Dwaniro sub-county); Luswa Primary School (Muwanga sub-county); St Andrews Primary School (Kiboga Town Council); Bukomero Junior Primary School (Bukomero Town Council); Kyetume Islamic Primary School (Kapeke sub-county); and Kyamukweya Primary School (Kapeke sub-county). Others are Katoma Primary School (Kiboga sub-county); Bwezigoro Primary School (Kiboga sub-county); and Andrew And Kagwa Primary School in Bukomero sub-county.

We carried out our follow-up visits in Kiboga Progressive Secondary School, Kiboga District Administration Primary School, Kapeke Seed Secondary School, Young Cranes Primary School, Kirinda Consultant Primary School, and Bamusuuta Primary School.

Findings

Kiboga Progressive Secondary School had a new toilet constructed with accessibility provisions such as a ramp and handrails on the walls. This is the first structure with a ramp since 1995 when the school was started. It is the biggest, most densely populated and best academically performing school in the district. This therefore implies that almost all school going children work hard to join this school. The head teacher assured KIAPPD that they will always take accessibility as a key issue and shall always be considered whenever making renovation or constructing new buildings.

KIAPPD takes this pleasure to appreciate both the management and administration of Kiboga Progressive for embracing accessibility issue. KIAPPD implores other schools without accessibility provisions to emulate the same. Schools enrolment is likely to rise when accessibility to all is provided for.

Another school visited is Young Cranes Primary School. The director of the school said that there are no adjustments made yet because the head teacher who was sensitised about accessibility had left the school. He said the former headmaster is the only one who had knowledge about accessibility and no one else could proceed without him. But after a long discussion on accessibility, the director assured us that he would construct at least one ramp at the office very soon.

At Bamusuuta Primary School, we found a new head teacher. He was positive on accessibility and asked for the Accessibility Standards, saying they will consider accessibility improvements as they



A ramp at one of the buildings of Kapeke Seed School

A ramp at the entrance of a PWDs latrine at Kapeke Seed School



The newly constructed accessible pit latrine at Kiboga Progressive Senior Secondary School

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Head teacher with heart for disabled children

Ayub Khamish is the head teacher of Arua Primary School, a government day school in Arua district with 77 children with disabilities. He talked to HAMAD LUBWAMA about his compassion for children with disability.

How did you know about UNAPD?

There are some people from the district (Arua District Action on Physical Disability) that came here to assess whether the school facilities are accessible to children with disability. They found when I had put some accessibility provisions without their intervention. They were so excited. Then later Scholastica Opoti from UNAPD came for a monitoring visit in the district and they brought her here. We discussed a number of things about accessibility and education of children with disability.

What prompted you to put a ramp at your office?

Some children and parents could not access my office or could access it with difficulty. It had two steps at the entrance. One of my pupils Baak Baak Macham is a wheelchair user but could not be able to enter. But recently after the construction of a ramp, he came in with confidence to complain about the watchman. I feel that persons with disability are part of life and need special attention. Disability can be got at any time. He is a very bright and active child in Primary Seven and very likely to get a First Grade.

How did you know about the ramp?

Do you have a close relative who has a disability?

I have no close relative who has a disability. There was a ramp at the office of my former school Arua Islamic School and I have seen how it was important for children and parents with disability. I had a parent with disability whose child was in P.7 and because of this ramp, he could easily access my office.

What resources did you use to construct a ramp?

We used local contribution from PTA (Parents Teachers Association). I took it as a priority thought it was not in my work plan. I got no resistance from the parents because they realized the need for it.

This is a government school where if you wish to make any adjustments to the structures you have to first inform the authorities. How did you handle this?

Sometimes back the education officials came here on their routine inspection and saw the ramp. They liked it. Why the



Ayub Khamish the head teacher

bureaucracy? I feel that children with disability need special attention.

Children and parents with disability can now access your office. What about other school facilities?

When I came here I found a special latrine for children with disability but it was not in use because there was no ramp. I put the ramp there. Little did I know that it is supposed to be for sitting on not for squatting. It is Scholastica Opoti from UNAPD who informed me that there should be a sit on facility and I will make it in the next holiday. There are handrails and the door is wide for a wheelchair user to enter. Some classes have ramps but others don't have.

How is the parents' response to education of children with disability?

Many parents feel it is useless to educate children with disability. Those who pay only pay for those who have minor disabilities not for the severe ones. They want the school to take over all their school needs including school fees, feeding, uniform and other scholastic materials. We have some who have openly demanded for uniforms. There are some two children with disability who had been taken



Macham moving down the ramp as fellow pupils and members of UNAPD on a monitoring visit look on.

away from the school by their parents because the school was not providing them with all the scholastic materials.

Then how do you address this challenge?

We give lunch and some scholastic materials to the deaf children and those who have severe disabilities as a motivation to stay in school. The deaf children are very difficult to keep in school because schools are unable to provide all that is necessary for their education. We have special needs children in every class but we don't have enough special needs teachers to be in all classes at the same time. Sometimes deaf children attend class with others but they just stare at the teacher because they cannot be able to hear. I have employed one sign language interpreter to interpret for teachers while in class but he can't also be everywhere.

My deputy is a special needs teacher but fell sick and has been away for more than a whole term. We need about seven special needs teachers but we only have two. But it is strange that even these two have also developed hearing impairments and are finding it hard to cope up and teach. I have complained to the district but no response yet. We want to get a partner to help us construct a dormitory for children with disability. We want them to sleep here because many of them travel for long distances yet their movements are limited. It can also be a great motivation for them to stay in school.

Any special message to children with disability or their parents?

Parents should support their children and not ignore them. They can grow into important and resourceful people in their communities. They can be major contributors to their families. Children with disability should not also give up. They should concentrate on their studies and discover their talents. Studies and their talents can be vital for their living in future. I also appeal to organisations of people with disability to come and support us to construct facilities for children with disability like a dormitory to improve their learning.

UNAPD lights up Amanyā's dream

BY APOLLO MUKASA

Rwakashoma Primary School is one of the oldest primary schools in Bushenyi District having been founded in 1947 on religious grounds. The school was later in 1955 taken over by the government. The Head Master of the school, John Baptist Baguma, is proud of it having produced several prominent individuals such as Prof. Tersis Kabwegere, Third Deputy Prime Minister, Rev. Father Peter Kanyandogo, lecturer at Nkozi University, among others.

"During my five year tenure in office, there has been improvement in academic performance from five first grades in 2008 to 26 in 2012, and increased enrollment from 337 to 560 pupils", Baguma says.

However, the schools accessibility record is a great contrast to its good profile.

The Chairperson of Bushenyi Persons with Physical Disability, Catherine Atusiima, noted in a brief interview that the school is among the few most strong UPE schools in Bushenyi but its inaccessible environment posed a great challenge to anyone yet it has a child with disability. She said because of this her association targeted the school through the Membership Empowerment Project to change its accessibility situation.



Mukasa and Amanyā at the newly constructed ramp leading to his class

"We engaged the school administration on several occasions in form of accessibility auditing and meetings to offer advise but they turned a deaf hear on us," Atusiima says.

In May, 2013, staff from the national secretariat visited the school during the routine project monitoring visits to further engage the administration to improve on accessibility situation. The visit was a surprise but offered two great opportunities.

First, we witnessed Davin Amanyana struggling on the steps leading to his classroom, to join his fellow pupils at the school general assembly.

Secondly, the visit coincided with a regular Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meeting going on. The team took advantage of the meeting and engaged the parents about Amanyana's plight. In this meeting, issues of poor accessibility were discussed, and equal treatment of the only child with disability in the school to enjoy his right to education.

It was also surprisingly realised that Amanyana's mother, Mable Kukebwa, was a teacher and also a member of the PTA. Kukebwa said that much as she could see her son struggling on steps, with no much attention, she feared to speak to the management and suffered silently.

In her own experience as a mother and teacher, Kukebwa said that her child has no required accessible facilities like latrine, classes, furniture and lack of special needs teachers. Although Amanyana is grown up, he still uses baby's potty for short and long calls.

"UNAPD visit is like a savior to me and my son. It has inspired me. It has given me hope that one time, the situation will change for the better life and education of my son," she said.

Among the key action appoints agreed upon in the meeting as a road map to improve on accessibility situation was to construct a ramp at Amanyana's classroom, and to give him the



Amanyana's mother (L) and the head teacher (2nd R) talking to Mukasa and the leadership of Bushenyi District Action on Physical Disability at the new ramp.

necessary attention like any other child.

After two months (July, 2013), I and Bushenyi District Association members made a follow up visit to the school. It was an exciting moment to see a wide gentle ramp constructed on Amanyana's classroom. We were informed that the PTA committee immediately mobilised resources to construct a ramp before another UNAPD visit.

The headmaster, Amanyana and his mother were full of joy. They thanked UNAPD and her association in Bushenyi for spearheading this campaign which had started to realise good results in the school.

UNAPD secretariat and Board appreciate the PTA and school administration for such a good gesture of taking an immediate action amidst meager resources. However, we still urge the school to also construct a ramp at the headmaster's office, a latrine for CWDs, and giving much attention to CWDs especially.

Kiboga schools embrace accessibility

From Pg 5

are about to start renovating some school buildings.

Kapeke Seed Secondary School was the most impressive as adjustments had been made to provide for accessibility. Standard ramps were constructed on all buildings. There is also a special toilet for children with disability that is accessible.

Challenges

Government schools take long to be renovated to implement adjustments for accessibility for funds have to come from central government.

Frequent transfers of head teachers who are top decisions makers and replaced by those who are not yet engaged by the Accessibility Audit Team.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Government should always involve

PWDs at all levels of planning and decision making to capture accessibility at every level. We PWDs should also carry on with regular follow-up of audited schools and more accessibility audits should be done.

Conclusion

One area where we have created great impact is making schools leadership aware and appreciate the importance of accessibility. Almost every one has committed him/herself to make sure that every new building constructed at the school should serve the interests of all including persons with disability. Making buildings accessible by putting up ramps among others is every ones duty and responsibility.

The writer is the Community Mobiliser of Kiboga Association of People with Physical Disability (KIAPD)



Apollo Mukasa
Project Coordinator

Exchange visits excite members

I take this opportunity to officially communicate to our esteemed readers, partners, stakeholders and members after a while. As already communicated in the previous update, I had gone for further studies and thanks to all those who supported me to successfully finalise my studies and be back to UNAPD.

I thank the Board for entrusting me with the new responsibility as the Project Coordinator for the Membership Empowerment Project. It's within this capacity that I want to give a snapshot of the project progress in the last two months.

One of the new and innovative strategies to strengthen the project's achievement of the indicators is the exchange visits among the project districts. It's an activity where three districts in a region are hosted by one and share a lot of information about the project. They share best practices, achievements, challenges, stakeholder, and sustainability of the project successes.

In the northern region, the visit was held in Arua while Bushenyi, Pallisa, and Kiboga hosted their counterparts in the western, eastern and central region respectively. The members appreciated this initiative as they greatly learnt from each other and recommended that such an activity be planned in all up-coming projects.

Trust Fund

As the district associations continue to receive Trust Fund to strengthen their advocacy efforts, it's equally the right time to collect data on achievements on indicators, assess the challenges and be resolved amicably. Therefore, a number of monitoring visits have been conducted by the project staff to all project districts and more are yet to be done.

Accessibility Survey

In order to establish more facts on the state of accessibility situation in Kampala, UNAPD contracted an architect consultant (Phyllis Kwesiga) to carry out this assignment. The findings of this survey were disseminated among the stakeholders such as engineers, architects, KCCA representatives, including those covered by the survey. One of the key findings is that the buildings in the city are grossly inaccessible by PWDs. The final report will be out soon.

Media campaign

Have also been engaged in a number of media activities. Among these include running two radio spots (one on accessibility and one on poverty alleviation) which are

concurrently running on 10 radio stations in the project districts for 30 days. We held a luncheon with the journalists aimed at drawing strategies for improved visibility of UNAPD activities in the media. This has started to bear fruits as the accessibility survey findings were widely covered by both the print and electronic media. We held two radio talk shows on Star FM and Biral FM in addition to a TV talk show on Star TV. A number of our members, stakeholders and general disability fraternity have appreciated this.

Sports competitions

I should not forget the sitting volley ball tournament organised by Uganda Paralympic Committee (UPC) in Kampala where UNAPD teams were the winners. (read more on back page).

Activities in progress

Among activities that are in progress include training of poverty alleviation groups in selected districts in VSLA, continuous release of trust fund, monitoring of sports in Mubende, airing of documentaries on TV stations, media campaigns, constitution review in preparation for the forthcoming general assembly, among others. It's also important to note that the secretariat is working hard with our partners (Danish) to develop a new project proposal for another project to consolidate the achievements registered under MEP but also use the best practices acquired to achieve more.



Architect Phyllis Kwesiga presenting the Accessibility Survey findings

Masaka district constructing model toilet



Vincent L. Kafeero
Project Officer

Our esteemed readers, I am happy to update you about the progress of our Accessible and Inclusive Schools for Children with Disability (CWD) Project in this forum. Following is what has been done recently:

Accessibility Survey

The project contributed to a survey on status of accessibility in Kampala district, targeting 27 public places. The survey included auditing or as-

sessing the buildings and facilities to see whether they can easily be used by every person including PWDs.

The places included Buganda Road Primary School, Kololo Secondary School, Makerere University (main campus) and Makerere University Business School, among others. The survey report was disseminated at Grand Imperial Hotel, attracting over 100 stakeholders including the media which has widely covered the survey findings. I wish to applaud you all for being part and urge you to take action on the recommendations in the report so that you improve accessibility in your institutions. Independent survey reports from each institution will be shared to officers in charge and follow up visits/ meetings held to ensure compliance with accessibility needs of all people. We should remember that accessibility is for all, not only PWDs.

Teachers make commitments

Teachers, owners of private schools and key district technical and political leaders in Kalungu and Kapchorwa districts were sensitised on disability and human rights the outcome of which was commitment to ensure change of attitude and support of Children with Disability's (CWDs) to access their right to education.

Construction guidelines

An advocacy meeting was held with the Construction Unit of the Ministry of Education and Sports on review of school construction guidelines. The unit has given UNAPD a copy of the guidelines the ministry currently uses and we are going to review them and make recommendations to ensure that all the schools constructed are compliant to the Accessibility Standards.

More Trust Funds

With support of the Trust Fund, district associations have continued to identify and follow up with schools under construction to ensure

that they are accessible. To date Masaka Local Government is constructing a model toilet at the district headquarters to serve as a demonstration of an accessible toilet. The schools and facilities the district has constructed since 2012 when the project started in the district have basic accessibility provisions for CWDs. I am happy that our leadership in the districts have used the Trust Fund well to do their advocacy very well.

Radio Talks

We held two radio talk shows on disability, abilities of CWDs and right to education on Kapchorwa Trinity Radio and Biral FM in Kampala. This gave us an opportunity to educate public to accept and support CWDs to realise their education dreams. It is further worthwhile to share that an advocacy meeting was held with the Directorate of Education Standards (DES) on possible review of school inspector's checklist to capture accessibility. We were pleased to learn from a key DES official that they had started incorporating accessibility issues in their work.

Data protection training

I attended a training in data protection and communication security organised by the African Centre for Media Excellence. The training made me more informed in ensuring safety of my personal and the organisation's information.

All children including those with disabilities have a right to education and we are very determined to ensure that these children do not miss this very important right. May we all remember that we are candidates for disability and therefore be mindful of the needs of PWDs/CWDs and support them to pursue their dreams.



Kapchorwa Deputy CAO Franco Olaboro (L) handing over copies of Accessibility Standards to engineers, contractors and planners. He urged them to follow the Standards while approving plans and constructing buildings and facilities.

Dear Friends and esteemed readers, I still convey my thanks for the work you do especially to ensure improved lives of people with disabilities. In this edition, I want to share with UNAPD district association leaders the Ten tips for Resource Mobilisation. This will help to ensure sustainability of your organisations.

MONEY MATTERS
with
DEO KINTU



1. Get to know the funders: Every grant-making organisation have their own set of priorities, concerns and focus areas. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that you find a funder that shares your organisations aspirations. Examples of funders to your associations are DRF, ABILIS Foundation, Trust Fund from UNAPD (for project districts) any other disabled peoples organizations, district local governments through their government programs, among others.
2. Introduce your Association before applying: Make sure you get in touch with your chosen funder before applying. Ask questions and make a positive impression.
3. Read the application directions carefully and follow them: Most funders will provide guidelines. Make sure you understand them and follow them to the latter. If unsure, ask a friend or get in touch with the funder if you can.
4. Write a captivating introduction: Funders may receive hundreds or even thousands of proposals for just a small number of available grants. It is crucial that your association stands out and captures the funder's attention as soon as they start reading your application. Demonstrate the real life dangers of the problem you are trying to resolve before highlighting the tangible, human outcomes that your project will deliver. Remember that program officers read a lot of applications so it is well worth your time taking the extra effort to stand out from your competitors.
5. Keep it simple: Endeavor to use simple language and en-

sure consistence especially where questions appear to be similar.

6. Create urgency: With so many proposals landing on the desks of funding organizations, it is important that you can show why it is vital that your project is funded immediately. Funders often receive similar applications and it is often the case that the proposal that appears to be most urgent will be selected.
7. Tangible outcomes: Funding institutions have a limited amount of money to achieve their objective. Like everyone else, they think hard and carefully before spending their money. If you want to persuade them to invest in your project and organization, you will need to be able to clearly show them exactly what they will get for their money. How many people will you support? What difference will this make to their lives? Funders only want strong returns on their investments. Make sure they understand the value of your project.
8. Maintain your presence: Always ensure that your contacts are on for efficient communication
9. Proofreading: Funding documents can often be long and require some technical information. It is easy to make mistakes. Ask a colleague or friend to check your application for spelling, grammar and other errors. They may also be able to highlight areas that you can improve. Don't let a few easily fixed mistakes get in the way of winning that all important funding.
10. Be positive: Grant making organizations want to create a better world. Funding proposals are your chance to show how you can help them to achieve it. Write positively about your project, the people it will support and the outcomes it will achieve. Finally friends, book keeping is very crucial.

UNAPD gives branded clock to Star TV

UNAPD's Apollo Mukasa hands over a branded wall clock to Star TV Station Manager Florence Boonabaana, in appreciation of the TV for running a programme about disability and elderly, the only one of its kind on Ugandan TV stations. The programme *Essubi Lyomuntu Aliko Obulemu N'omukadde* is presented by Emmanuel Ssemigga (in coat). on Thursdays 7:30-8pm.





WINNERS' SMILE: UNAPD's women sitting volleyball team that won the trophy in the UPC national competitions

UNAPD sweeps volleyball trophies

BY SCHOLASTICA OPOTI

It was all jubilation and excitement as UNAPD teams dominated the national sitting volleyball competitions, winning both trophies in the men's and women's categories.

The two-day annual tournament organised by Uganda Paralympics Committee at Lugogo in Kampala attracted seven teams; five for men and two for women.

UNAPD sponsored two men's teams from Mubende (Mubende Rehabilitation Centre – MRC - and Mubende Men's team) and two from Kampala (UNAPD A and B). It also fielded one women's team from Mubende that triumphed over their Kampala counterparts.

MRC team comprises of UPDF soldiers who acquired physical disabilities as a result of landmines, bullets, bombs and accidents.

The tournament was aimed at identifying players who will make up the Uganda national team to play in the African Women World cup qualifiers in Uganda this year.

Ten women from Mubende and Kampala were selected including the writer of this story Scholastica Opoti, Irene Namigayo, Barbra Nabaloga, Sofia Nabatanzi, Hajara Nakiyngi, Hellen Nambatya, Gorret Namuli, Juliet Nalongo, Gladys Nantubmwe, and Regina Nanteza.

The three teams from Mubende were so grateful to UNAPD for supporting them to participate in the tournament, saying this was their first time to participate in a national competition.

"We shall go and mobilise more women with disabilities to join sports activities and they explore such opportunities, like we have," said the women's captain.

UNAPD is implementing a pilot sports project in Mubende aimed at mobilising people with physical disabilities, finding their sports talents and socialisation. Sports is also one of the ways by which persons with disability can reduce stigma from the public as they show case their special ability.

The organisation has four teams in Mubende Town Council, Bukuya and Kasanda sub-counties where the project is implemented.